



Press Release

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AGREC Addresses Global Issues at the Local Level by Awarding over \$80K to 6 Collaborative Projects this Year

The [Atlanta Global Research & Education Collaborative \(AGREC\)](#), launched in 2020 and housed within the [Atlanta Global Studies Center \(AGSC\)](#), has awarded \$80,000 to support six projects during the 2023-24 Academic Year.

The awarded projects are led by faculty teams working with community partners to address a wide range of global issues. Each team consists of faculty from at least two AGREC institutions and at least one community partner.

AGREC is comprised of six university partners: [AGSC](#), a consortium of Georgia Tech and Georgia State University; [Emory University's Office of Global Strategy and Initiatives](#); [Agnes Scott College's SUMMIT Center for Global Learning and Leadership Development](#); [Spelman College's Gordon Zeto Center for Global Education](#); and [Kennesaw State University's \(KSU\) Division of Global Affairs](#). AGREC welcomes more college and universities to join the initiative.

Through effective multi-institutional collaboration, AGREC bolsters global engagement in the region by supporting “global at home” projects that empower students, faculty, and community partners to use research, education, and action to address global issues. Since its 2020 launch, AGREC has supported 32 collaborative, interdisciplinary research and education projects with a focus on community engagement and global issues.

“AGREC has gained significant momentum since it was first established in 2020 as a response to the pandemic. This collaborative has grown in size, scope, and impact as reflected in the range of projects and research teams supported to date” said Anthony F. Lemieux, founding co-director of the Atlanta Global Studies Center and professor of communication at Georgia State

University. “We continue to be inspired by the interdisciplinary work being carried out by dedicated researchers in partnership with students and community organizations. This collaboration allows Atlanta’s higher education institutions not only to maximize their support for research that generates new ideas and innovative solutions to global issues that affect us at the local level, but also to foster the development of relationships that connect us in meaningful ways.”

New projects supported in Academic Year 2023-24:

Building a user-driven information database to address the service needs of South Asian survivors of intimate partner violence in Metropolitan Atlanta – Georgia State University, Emory University, Rashka Inc.

This project will build a user-driven information database to address the information and service needs of survivors of intimate partner violence (IPV) within Southeast Asian communities in metropolitan Atlanta. A mobile application will be adapted for use among IPV survivors in collaboration with Raksha, Inc, a Georgia-based non-profit organization serving the South Asian community, utilizing AI and large language models to facilitate broader adoption, streamline the process of connecting users with service providers, and aid in identifying service gaps.

Supporting and Bridging Native Science between Mexico and Atlanta’s K-12 Dual Language Immersion: Digital curriculum development and adaptation - Georgia State University, Kennesaw University, Atlanta Public Schools, Universidad Veracruz Mexico

This study will integrate an Indigenous or Native science curriculum, aligned with academic and intercultural goals, into Atlanta’s K-12 dual language immersion (DLI) programs, to address the lack of science curriculum in partner languages in elementary and middle DLI schools. A recurring APS science summer course will create exemplar instructional materials. Pilot data from summer program classrooms will inform a future proposal to develop a nationally available high school environmental science course.

Improving Diabetes Management Among Refugees in Clarkston, Atlanta – Emory School of Medicine, Georgia State University Prevention Research Center, Ethne Health Clinic

This project will develop, implement, and test the efficacy of an adapted diabetes self-management community outreach worker program for refugees in Clarkston, GA, where members of the Burmese community suffer diabetes at a drastically disproportionate rate. Once trained, community health workers will continue to assist patients at the Ethne and Grace Village health clinics, providing a sustainable program long-term. The research component of the program will provide critical preliminary information to inform scale-up of the program to other refugee groups and a larger subsequent study will aim to demonstrate the long-term cost-effectiveness of the program for refugee populations across the United States.

Facilitating Mental Health Awareness in Ethiopian and Eritrean Communities through Culturally Tailored Training – Emory University, Georgia State University, Ethiopian Community Association in Atlanta (ECAA), Eritrean American Community Association of GA (EACAG)

This project aims to increase mental health awareness among Ethiopian and Eritrean communities in Atlanta by providing culturally tailored educational resources and community trainings. Culturally relevant themes identified through previously conducted focus groups and interviews with adolescents, young adults, parents and community leaders will be incorporated into educational materials and trainings to improve health communication in these communities by targeting the stigmatizing norms that inhibit mental health.

New funding for continuing projects:

Simuvaction on AI – Emory University, Georgia Institute of Technology, The American Red Cross in Atlanta

The program gathers students from U.S., Canadian, and European Universities and invites them to think globally about local issues by participating in a simulation. In 2023-2024, students will focus on “AI, Climate Resilience and Health Disparities on a Global Stage” and replicate an international meeting of the Global Partnership on AI, occupying all the participants' roles. At a time when the (real) GPAI is promoted by the Hiroshima G7 as one of the two international organizations missioned to help the globe with AI governance, this exercise can both engage students in a real-time activity at the center of AI governance and increase AI education and engagement in Atlanta communities.

RCE Greater Atlanta SDG Futures Fellowship

Georgia Institute of Technology, Kennesaw State University, Wundergrubs, Karmalize

This project serves as the primary youth (ages 17-29) engagement program for RCE Greater Atlanta, providing seven-month leadership and professional development experiences to 15-20 students enrolled in higher education institutions, using the UN SDGs as a framework for project-based learning focused on local sustainability challenges both on campus in local Atlanta communities.

More information is available on the [AGREC website](#).



Atlanta Global Studies Center

